



### **Contact Information**

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### **Foundations in Composition**

### **Course Syllabus**

### **Course Description:**

This course develops basic writing, listening, and thinking skills at a slower pace and is designed for students who require additional assistance. The course will emphasize the writing process, note-taking, summarizing, letter writing, research, poetry, and literary analysis.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning and assessment are built primarily on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade expectations of the Iowa Core Writing and Language Strands.

### **Iowa Core Standards:**

#### **Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text**

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

#### **Standard 3: Writing**

Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

#### **Standard 4: Speaking and Listening**

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

#### **Standard 5: Language**

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

### **Assessments:**

- Daily writing assignments
- Weekly vocabulary quizzes
- 4 Major Compositions
- Selected grammar/usage quizzes
- Collaborative group activities
- Peer reviews of written samples
- No Red Ink ([www.noredink.com](http://www.noredink.com))
- Semester Exam

**Instructional Strategies:**

- \* Small and Large Group Discussions
- \* Daily, Guided Writings
- \* Creative Writing
- \* Descriptive, Expository, Persuasive, Narrative Writing
- \* Grammar Activities/ Sentence Structure/ Daily Practice
- \* Vocabulary Practice & Acquisition
- \* Peer Sharing/Editing

“Written expression is our primary means of reflecting what we think and what we know. You cannot write and not think.” ~Jim Burke, English Teacher

UNIT	DESCRIPTION
Introductions, Purposes of Writing	-Introductory Speeches -Types of Writing -Personal Letter Writing
Parts of Speech/Sentences	-Identifying Parts of Speech -Complete Sentence Writing -Kinds of Sentences
Unified Paragraph Writing/5 Paragraph Format	-Unified Paragraph Writing -Organizing a 5 Paragraph Essay
Descriptive Writing	-Sensory Description -Strong Verbs/Descriptive Action Words -Figurative Language -COMPOSITION #1- “A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...”
Expository Writing	-Short Story/Literary Terms -Read “The Cemetery Path” -Source Documentation and Quote Integration -COMPOSITION #2-“CREDO PAPER”
Persuasive Writing	-Values in Advertising -Letters to the Editor/Editorials/Political Cartoons -COMPOSITION #3-“LETTER TO THE RAMPAGE”
Personal Narrative	-View <i>Big Fish</i> -Storyboards -COMPOSITION #4-“PERSONAL NARRATIVE/SHORT STORY”

## **Classroom Conduct and Behavior Expectations:**

### **RESPECT**

- **Classroom:** Respect the property of the school and the property of others by leaving alone things that do not belong to you. Do not write on desks, litter on the floor, pick at bulletin boards, etc.
- **Classmates:** Treat your classmates as you would expect to be treated. I will NOT tolerate hurtful and insensitive remarks directed towards others. During class discussions and writer's workshops, please be respectful of the ideas and opinions of others.
- **Teachers:** I refuse to talk over you. When I am talking, please refrain from any conversation. I will respect you when you are speaking; so please, respect me enough to listen when I am speaking.

**Attendance:** It is very difficult for you to learn in this class if you are not here. Be in class, on time, every day. I keep accurate attendance records and will follow the school's attendance policy (see student handbook).

**Tardies:** We will start class when the bell rings, not 2 minutes after. Be in your seat and ready to learn. According to the school's tardy policy, each tardy after 3 will be considered an unexcused absence (see student handbook).

**Hallway Privileges:** If you need to leave the room for any reason, you must sign out with your student agenda. Abuse of this rule will result in loss of freedom to leave the classroom.

**Food and Beverages:** With the exception of di-hydrogen monoxide, absolutely NO food or beverages of any kind will be allowed in the classroom (see student handbook).

**Personal Audio Equipment, Pagers, Headsets, Cell Phones, etc:** Prohibited in class; after one verbal warning to place electronics away, electronic devices/cell phones will be confiscated.

**Other:** NO BAGS OR PURSES ON DESKS.

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**Compositions:** Since a major component of this class deals with writing, you will be required to complete 4 major compositions this semester. These compositions will be worth 50 pts. Each.

**Portfolios:** Each student will have a portfolio where they will collect their writing assignments, rough drafts, and final compositions. Portfolios will be kept in the classroom. By the end of the semester, your portfolio will be solid evidence of your progression as a writer.

**Assignments:** All of our assignments and compositions will be completed DURING CLASS TIME. **IF YOU ARE IN CLASS EVERYDAY AND USE YOUR WORK TIME WISELY, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME.**

**Make-Up Work:** If you miss class, talk to us the day you return and we will determine your make-up schedule. If you miss a quiz but attended class the day before, you will take the quiz on the day you return. If you know you will be absent, get your work ahead of time.